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## Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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Title: The Living Waters of Korup Rainforest

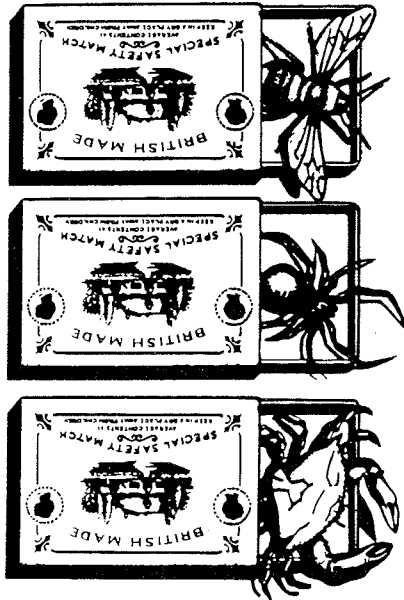
Author(s): Mathias, J.

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**'CREEPY-CRAWLIES'**  
**THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY**  
Natural History Museum

the major invertebrate groups - quote 'Insects, Arachnids (spiders & co.), Crustaceans and Centipedes and Millipedes' treated in a lively and novel way using '14 video shows, hundreds of interactive models and specimens'. There is a six metre high termite mound and a giant model of a swallowtail butterfly. The centrepiece is a full size house within the exhibition, 1 Crawley Place, which illustrates the invertebrates that live in association with Man.

Despite the unfortunate title this seems to be a fun exhibition aimed at introducing visitors to the less well-known animal groups. If any BCG members get the chance to see it in the next few months, perhaps they would like to write down their impressions for the next Newsletter.

John Mathias  
Editor

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## Letters

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Dear Sir,

I am working on the life of William Robson, 1805-1865.

Amongst many other outstanding hobbies William Robson had a collection of birds eggs which was so good that many naturalists went to see it.

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On his death in 1865 this wonderful collection was passed to a museum. The Natural History Museum, Tring, has recommended I write to you as you are compiling records of collections.

Along with all Robson's other great works it is probable the egg collection was not marked with his name.

I realise this is worse than looking for a needle in a haystack, but I would be grateful if any of your members could tell me if they have any knowledge of Robson's collection.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J M Ross  
10 Penlee Road  
Stoke  
Plymouth PL3 4AU  
Telephone 0752 563910

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## In the Press

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### THE LIVING WATERS OF KORUP RAINFOREST

The World Wide Fund for Nature have just published THE LIVING WATERS OF KORUP RAINFOREST by BCG Committee member Dr Gordon Reid of the Horniman Museum, London. This is a preliminary account of the results of a tough, three-month-long, scientific expedition to the steaming jungle of Korup National Park, Cameroon, West Africa. The expedition, organised by the Museum in conjunction with the Cameroonian and British Armies, has drawn a lot of media publicity and there have been colourful articles in a recent issue of GEOGRAPHICAL MAGAZINE and in the latest edition of WWF NEWS. The fact that twenty expedition members contracted a particularly severe form of malaria has also produced comment in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL!

Reid's formal report, now out, is a hydrobiological survey, with an emphasis on the fish and fisheries of the rivers and streams which flow through the rainforest. As well as highlighting problems in conservation and development, there are interesting accounts of rare and scientifically undescribed species and a wealth of original observations on the complex and unsuspected ecological interrelationships between the rainforest and the life in the rivers which drain it.

The report is called THE LIVING WATERS OF KORUP RAINFOREST, WWF Report 3206/A8:1, 70 pages, 29 colour plates, cost £10, available from The Korup Project Office, WWF (UK), Weyside Park, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XR.

THE LINNEAN, which is the Newsletter for the Linnean Society of London, carries some substantial articles as well as the news, reviews and coming attractions for Society members. These are often concerned with the history of the Society, biographical snippets on its past members and that kind of thing. In Volume 5 no 1 (January 1989) John Edmondson has written an informative piece on the Bullock family, whose most celebrated member was William Bullock, museological entrepreneur of Birmingham, Liverpool and London (the 'Eggyptian Hall') in the first half of the nineteenth century. As well as describing the flamboyance of Bullock's life the article brings together information on the origins of his specimens (some of which were from Cook's voyages, others early material from Australia) and their dispersal. Essential reading for anyone interested in the history of natural history museums, not least for the comparisons John makes between the entrepreneurial activities of Regency collectors and showmen and those of museum directors today.

John Mathias  
Editor

## Programme

### AUTUMN MEETING IN DEVON

October 26 to 29 at the Hallsannery Field Centre, Bideford, Devon.

Theme: MARINE COLLECTIONS - their care, conservation and importance.

This is the first seminar BCG has held on marine collections, and the first to be held in Devon. The purpose of the seminar is to highlight the importance and value to the scientific community of marine collections - as evidenced by recent water quality surveys, the fragile nature of estuarine ecosystems and the massive expansion in the marine leisure industry.

Materials, techniques and applications from the conservation repertoire will be examined for their value to the care of marine collections - some of these may be new to many natural scientists. The public interest in marine topics (eg whales) and the potential of marine collections for education will also be featured.

A number of excursions to places of interest in Devon have been organised both before and after the seminar.

### PROGRAMME

Thursday 26 October Arrive Hallsannery

6.30 Sherry  
7.00 Dinner

Friday 27 October

8.00-9.00 Breakfast  
9.00-9.15 Introduction  
9.15-10.15 Diversity in Marine Collections. Care and Curation of Microscopical Material.  
P Boyd, Museums Officer, North Devon Museums Service.  
10.15-10.45 Conservation and some useful applications for Biology.  
R and H Jaeschke, Conservators, North Devon.  
11.45-12.45 Marine Algae and the Collections of the Marine Biological Association.  
Dr G Boalch, Bursar, Marine Biological Association, Plymouth.  
12.45-2.00 Buffet Lunch and Bar  
2.00-3.00 Whales in Devon: the Museum Context.  
K Boot, Senior Curator, Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter.  
3.00-6.00 Estuary Cruise  
6.30-7.30 Dinner  
8.00 Guest Evening Speaker  
F Ching, Director, Taiwan Museum of Natural History.

Saturday 28 October

8.00-9.00 Breakfast  
9.00 Depart Hallsannery to visit the new Museum of North Devon, Branstaple.  
12.00 Visit to Braunton Burrows National Nature Reserve.  
Introduction by Reserve Warden, J. Breeds.  
6.00-7.30 Dinner  
8.00 Guest Evening Speaker  
Professor R Tait, Marine Biologist.

There is the possibility of a cruise to Lundy Island on MS Oldenburg. Two hour ship time each way, weather dependent. Cost about £10. Thursday 26th from Ilfracombe 10.30 to return about 6pm.

Excursions for Sunday 29 October

Visit and buffet at the Natural History Book Service, Totnes. Mr B Mercer has offered delegates a 10% discount and will arrange to have available for viewing books of special interest. Requests in advance please 0803 365913.

Whale exhibition private view, at Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter.

Totnes and Exeter are on the 125 Intercity train route and linked to M5.

Jerry Lee  
North Devon Museum, Barnstaple